

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). System for continuous treatment, such as dyeing, drying, steaming or fixation of a textile web of fabric (1) that has free longitudinal edges (2) and is guided stretched in the longitudinal direction (3) of the web, in which turning over of the longitudinal edges (2) is suppressed by means of placement of staples (8), using staple fingers (10 to 12) that lie alternately on the two web surfaces (22, 23), next to one another in the plane of the web of fabric (1), ~~characterized by~~ wherein a staple shooting device (17) with a staple magazine (15), which is assigned to the longitudinal edge (2), in each instance, at a location of the system in which the edge normally has not turned over yet.

Claim 2 (currently amended). System according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the staple shooting device (17) consists of a staple slide or striking pin (18) for shooting the staple (8) out in the direction (19) of the web edge (2), assigned to a staple position in the magazine (15).

Claim 3 (currently amended). System according to ~~claim 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a pneumatic or hydraulic cylinder (24) is provided for activating the slide or striking pin (18).

Claim 4 (currently amended). System according to ~~claim 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a catapult, preferably one that is biased mechanically, is provided for activating the slide or striking pin (18).

Claim 5 (currently amended). System according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ wherein effective means (21) of a staple spreading device (17) for spreading adjacent staple fingers (10 to 12) alternately towards the upper and lower side (22, 23) of the web of fabric (1), before placement onto the longitudinal edge (2).

Claim 6 (currently amended). System according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein manual activation of the staple shooting device (17), preferably from a distance, for example from the console of the machine operator, is provided.

Claim 7 (currently amended). System according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein automatic activation of the staple-shooting device (17) by means of an edge sensor is provided.

Claim 8 (currently amended). System according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the staple back (9) possesses a notch (28) at least on its front side edge (26, 27), and that a pin (29) is set in fixed manner at a distance from the longitudinal edge (2), for automatic pulling of the staple (8), which pin engages into the notch

(28) as the staple (8) passes by, and holds the staple (8) in place as well as pulls it off the web (1).

Claim 9 (currently amended). System according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the staple (8) automatically pulled off the web (1) gets into a magazine (15) by way of a funnel (31) and a slide (32), ordered in oriented manner.

Claim 10 (currently amended). System according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein means, preferably sensor-controlled means, are provided for allowing follow of the staple shooting device (17) and/or the pin (29) in case of lateral progression of the web (1) - progression

crosswise to the transport direction (3) - or in case of changing web widths.

Claim 11 (currently amended). Method for operating the system according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein shooting of the staple (8) onto the edge (2), in a direction (19) crosswise to the web transport direction (3), takes place at a greater speed as compared with the transport speed.

Claim 12 (currently amended). Method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein placement of the staple (8), in each instance, takes place until contact (14) occurs between two fingers (10 to 12) on the staple back (9).